

VILLAGE OF PINECREST

2014-2015 Community Information Guide



Welcome from the Mayor

On behalf of the Village Council and staff, It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Village of Pinecrest.

This Community Information Guide is intended to assist you by providing essential information about the Village's government and our community.

I encourage our residents to also visit the Village's official web site at **www.pinecrest-fl.gov** which provides many e-services. You can also subscribe to our E-mail Subscription Service to receive important information and meeting notices via e-mail. If you prefer, you can also follow us on Twitter (**[@pinecrestfl](https://twitter.com/pinecrestfl)**) or "Like" us on Facebook (**[pinecrestfl](https://www.facebook.com/pinecrestfl)**).

As always, the Village Council and I welcome any suggestions you may have on improving the Village of Pinecrest. Please contact us at **council@pinecrest-fl.gov**.

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

Village Council

The Village of Pinecrest is governed by a five member Village Council. Three councilmembers are elected to represent specific residential areas (Seats 1, 2 and 3) and must reside in their respective area. A fourth councilmember (Seat 4) and the mayor may reside anywhere in the Village. Village Council elections are non-partisan. As the legislative body, the Village Council determines policy, adopts the annual budget and makes laws.



Mayor Cindy Lerner was elected as Pinecrest's third mayor on November 4, 2008 and re-elected, without opposition, in 2012. She is a graduate of the Palmetto Senior High Class of 1970 and of Tulane University and Emory University's School of Law. She previously served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. Mayor Lerner is currently First Vice President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and serves on the steering committee of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the National League of Cities.



Councilmember Cheri Ball was elected to Seat 4 in November 2014. She has an Associate of Arts degree from Miami Dade College. She previously served as an administrative aide to Miami-Dade School Board Member Evelyn Greer. Her other public service includes the Village's Transportation Advisory Committee, event chair for Pinecrest Relay for Life, the executive board of Citizen's Coalition for Public Schools, and Bylaws & Policies chair for the Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA Executive Board. She was also a PTA and PTSA president of the Pinecrest schools. Councilmember Ball has actively participated in community organizations including St. Louis Catholic Church's humanities programs, Sabal Palm Jaycees, Girl Scouts of South Florida, the MDCPS Listeners Program, and the University of Miami Sporty Gals program.



Councilmember Doug Kraft was elected to Seat 2 in 2014. He was raised in Iowa. After a short college baseball career, he joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base. He is a retired firefighter/paramedic. He is a past member of the Zoning Board and the Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee. Councilmember Kraft serves on the management team of the Special Olympics of Miami-Dade County.



Councilmember James E. McDonald was elected to **Seat 3** in 2012. He is a graduate of Fairfield University and received his law degree from Catholic University of America. Councilmember McDonald is principal of James E. McDonald, P.A. and of counsel to McLuskey & McDonald, P.A. He is also an adjunct law professor at Miami's St. Thomas University. He previously was chairperson of the Village's Transportation Advisory Committee.



Councilmember Bob Ross was elected to **Seat 1** in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. He earned a B.A. degree in journalism from The Ohio State University. Councilmember Ross is the owner of BobRossPR, is an accredited member and fellow of the Public Relations Society of America and has received his chapter's Bill Adams Lifetime Achievement Award. He has previously served as a member of the Village's Landscape and Pinecrest Gardens committees.

Charter Officers



Yocelyn Galiano Gomez was confirmed as Pinecrest's second **Village Manager** on July 18, 2011. Ms. Galiano Gomez

previously served as the Village's assistant manager for over ten years. She was the City of Doral's first city manager and previously served as the Village of Key Biscayne's assistant manager. Ms. Galiano Gomez has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. She is the past president of the Miami-Dade County City Management Association and is an accredited manager.



Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr. was appointed as Pinecrest's first **Village Clerk** in 1996. Mr. Inguanzo previously served as the first Village Clerk

of the Village of Key Biscayne. Mr. Inguanzo is a graduate of Florida International University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Mr. Inguanzo is an active member of the Florida Association of City Clerks and was the founding president of the Miami-Dade County Municipal Clerks Association.



Mitchell Bierman, of the firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, was appointed as the **Village Attorney** in 2013. He served as an Assistant Attorney

for Miami-Dade County from 1990-1996 and is currently also the attorney for the Town of Cutler Bay. Mr. Bierman also provides key expertise to many of the firm's other government clients on particular matters. He is a graduate of the New York University School of Law.



PINECREST GARDENS

Built in the 1930s, Pinecrest Gardens features over one thousand varieties of rare tropical and exotic plants and palm trees in a native tropical hardwood and cypress hammock setting. The dramatic landscape is enhanced with natural streams, sinkholes, caves, and provides a breath-taking backdrop for the historical structures on the property.

The park is the former site of the world-famous Parrot Jungle tourist attraction. Pinecrest acquired the property in 2002 for \$12 million (offset by \$6.2 million in grants). The facility was opened as a municipal park in 2003 and was designated as a department of the Village government in 2009. In 2011, the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The park is home to several historic structures. The Whilden-Carrier Cottage is typical of the pioneer dwellings built by homesteaders throughout rural South Miami-Dade in the early 1900s. The Historical Entrance Building served as the original entrance to Parrot Jungle and was built by the attraction's founder, Franz Scherr.

The park is a popular attraction for families. The facility includes the Splash 'N Play area—a children's water oasis situated in the middle of the lush garden that offers a perfect cooling-off place during hot summer days. The park also boasts a petting zoo, beautiful trails and a children's playground.

Aside from the serene and beautiful landscape, Pinecrest Gardens hosts a variety of programs and events including the annual Pinecrest Fine Arts Festival. The facility also has many other cultural and family events throughout the year promoting the arts, education and the environment.

Pinecrest Gardens is the place where the community convenes for an astounding array of relaxation, social and enrichment programs.

For more information, including memberships and a schedule of upcoming events, visit www.pinecrestgardens.org.

11000 Red Road
305.669.6990

Open Daily
9:00 a.m. - Sunset

PINECREST PARKS www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks

Coral Pine Park

6955 Southwest 104th Street
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Daily

This nine-acre neighborhood park is a favorite among the Village's tennis aficionados. The park also has a natural hardwood hammock area and a tot-lot.

Evelyn Greer Park

8200 Southwest 124th Street
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat-Sun

This ten-acre recreational facility was constructed in 2000 and is the Village's signature park. Amenities include lighted multi-purpose fields, batting cages, a vita-course, a tot-lot, a Wi-Fi spot, a gazebo, and a community room.

Flagler Grove Park

7551 Southwest 104th Street
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat-Sun

This three-acre soccer complex was dedicated in 2008 and includes a boundless playground.

Suniland Park

12855 South Dixie Highway
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat-Sun

This ten-acre park is one of the Village's most active venues and is host to year-round athletic events. Amenities include multi-purpose fields, batting cages, lighted basketball courts, a tot-lot, a Wi-Fi spot, a walking path, and a recreation center.

Veterans Wayside Park

11111 Pinecrest Parkway
Sunrise - Sunset Daily

This passive park provides a beautiful, green space along the busy US 1 commercial corridor.

MEMBERSHIPS

Fitness Center and Programs

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Pinecrest Community Center? Membership includes use of the fitness center and preferred discounted registration to classes and programs. The membership form is available at pinecrestcommunitycenter.com or call 305.284.0900 for additional information.

Pinecrest Gardens

Help support Pinecrest Gardens by becoming a member today. Members receive many exclusive benefits and there are several membership levels each with its own privileges and opportunities. For additional information, please call 305.669.6990 or visit www.pinecrestgardens.org.



Pinecrest Community Center & Branch Library

The **Pinecrest Community Center** provides a focal point for the community to meet and participate in personal enrichment programs including health and fitness.

The state-of-the-art fitness center provides members with an opportunity to get in shape with weight training programs, functional core training, cardio-vascular exercises, pilates, ballet, and many other fitness programs.

The center offers a myriad of enrichment programs for children and adults. New classes are offered on a regular basis - please visit www.pinecrestcommunitycenter.com for a copy of the latest Leisure Guide.

Interested in learning a new dance step? The center offers dance lessons for all ages. From beginners Salsa to classic ballet, there is something for everyone. Other dance programs include Line Dancing, Belly Dancing and modern dance.

Music is a major component of the offerings at the facility. You even have the opportunity to create your own rock band!

The center is constantly adding programs for senior citizens. Seniors can partake in health and wellness screenings, participate in an AARP defensive driving program and even play Bridge. The center also provides programs for infants and toddlers including Mommy & Me classes and pre-school art sessions.



The opportunities are endless...Judo, Tai Chi, Sports Conditioning, Boot Camp training, Yoga, Fencing, Family and Stroller Fitness, SAT Preparation, Chinese 101, or just come to one of the many lecture series.

While at the center, walk across the covered-walkway and visit the **Pinecrest Branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library System**. It is bright and inviting - with a great deal of open space and vaulted ceilings that offer an abundance of natural light. Patrons can sit at café-style stools and surf the Internet. There is a comfortable seating area and a large and open children's room. A gallery wall displays artwork. The friendly staff can help you check out your favorite book and even DVDs of new movies.

To receive notice of activities at the Pinecrest Community Center, and other Pinecrest parks, please visit www.pinecrestcommunitycenter.com.

5855 Killian Drive | 305.284.0900

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Monday - Friday
6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Sunday

Pinecrest Schools

Pinecrest is recognized for having some of the best schools in Miami-Dade County.

PUBLIC

Miami Palmetto Senior High
mpsh.dadeschools.net

Palmetto Middle
pms.dadeschools.net

Palmetto Elementary
pes.dadeschools.net

Pinecrest Elementary
pinecrest.dadeschools.net

PRIVATE

Bet Shira Congregation
www.betshira.org/school.asp

Gulliver Preparatory
gulliverschools.org

Kendall United Methodist
www.kendallchurch.org

St. Louis Covenant
www.stlouismiami.org

Temple Beth Am
www.betham-miami.org



Advisory Groups

The Village Council has created citizen advisory groups to encourage civic engagement in the Pinecrest community. All meetings of these advisory groups are open to the public. A schedule of upcoming meetings is available at www.pinecrest-fl.gov.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center Advisory Committee was formed to provide a forum for residents to discuss how the Pinecrest Community Center can best meet the needs and desires of residents.

PINECREST GARDENS

The Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee is charged with developing proposals and making recommendations relating to the educational, cultural and volunteer opportunities designed to support the historic Pinecrest Gardens. The committee also reviews the botanical master plan on an annual basis.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Advisory Committee provides a forum for developing recommendations for transportation related projects in the community.

YOUTH

The Youth Advisory Council reviews issues facing the youth of Pinecrest. The group is comprised of students in grades 6 - 12. Any resident or student attending a Pinecrest school is eligible to apply for membership. The group performs at least one community service project per academic year.

ONLINE

www.pinecrest-fl.gov

The Village's web site provides instant access to important information and documents. The site includes electronic copies of all Village Council meeting agendas and minutes, the Village Charter, Code of Ordinances, and other important documents including resolutions, the annual budget, and the Land Development Regulations. The Village is committed to providing convenient e-access for Pinecrest residents. The web site also includes live building inspection results, live and archived streaming video of Village Council meetings and a citizen service request system for residents to submit issues and track the progress of their matter.

E-NEWS

If you are interested in receiving information via e-mail, sign-up for the E-mail Subscription Service at www.pinecrest-fl.gov. Subscribers will receive the monthly E-News, notice of all upcoming public meetings and important announcements from the Village government.

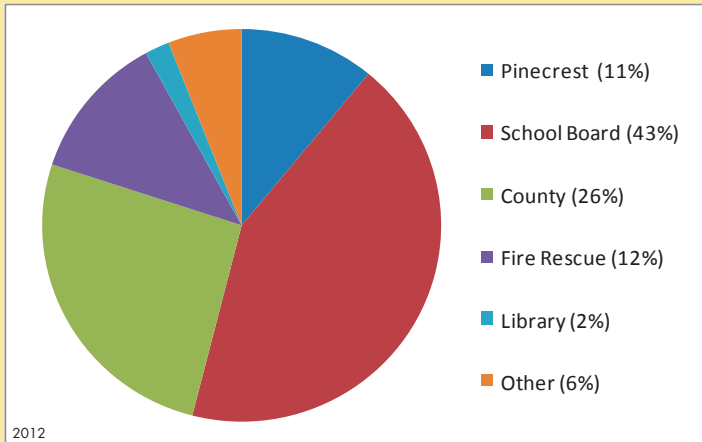
SOCIAL MEDIA



The Village of Pinecrest has several social media sites as an additional avenue for improving our communication with residents. Follow us on Twitter at @pinecrestfl and "Like" us on Facebook at www.fb.me/pinecrestfl.

Where do your tax dollars go?

The **Village of Pinecrest's share** of the average overall property tax bill **is approximately 11 percent**. In other words, for every property tax dollar paid by property owners in the Pinecrest, the Village receives 11 cents. The remainder goes to other taxing authorities that include the Miami-Dade County School Board, Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Department, and the Public Library System. Since 1996, Pinecrest has historically had one of the lowest tax (millage) rates of any municipality in the county.



MyPinecrest App

The MyPinecrest app is your official service request tool to stay in touch with the Village of Pinecrest government. The app allows service requests (potholes, noise complaints, dangerous conditions, tree topping, etc.) to be submitted where they will be instantly routed to the correct Village staff in the appropriate department. This means your service request will be responded to quickly and efficiently, and you will be notified once they are addressed.



It Starts in Parks...

The Parks and Recreation Department hosts a variety of sports groups.

Miami Premier Soccer League - Girls and Ladies

www.miamipremiersoccer.com

Pinecrest Premier Soccer League - Boys and Girls

www.pinecrestpremiersoccerclub.com

YMCA - Diversified Sports

www.ymcamiami.org

Suniland Sundevils Football and Cheerleading

www.sunilandsundevils.org

Howard Palmetto Baseball/Softball Association

www.howardpalmetto.com

Going Green Initiative

Pinecrest has a long history of environmental sensitivity and activism, as a community and as a municipal government. The Village Council has made sustainability a priority goal in the Village's Strategic Plan. Pinecrest is committed to lead by demonstrating sustainable stewardship that will yield cost savings to taxpayers by reducing operating costs, providing a healthy work environment for staff and visitors, increasing public awareness of the environmental and economic problems associated with carbon emissions, and establishing community standards of sustainable living practices.

Please visit **www.pinecrest-fl.gov/green** for information about Green tips, rebates, incentives, the annual Earth Day Festival, public transportation, and the Village's Adopt-a-Tree program.



Government Representatives

Miami-Dade County

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez, Mayor

mayor@miamidade.gov | 305.375.5071

The Honorable Xavier Suarez, Commissioner

District 7

district7@miamidade.gov | 305.375.5680

Miami-Dade County School Board

The Honorable Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

District 9

lfeldman@dadeschools.net | 305.995.1334

State of Florida

The Honorable Gwen Margolis, State Senator

District 35

The Honorable Erik Fresen, State Representative

District 114

The Honorable Michael Bileca, State Representative

District 115

www.leg.state.fl.us | 800.342.1827

Departments

BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT | www.pinecrest-fl.gov/building | 305.234.2121 | building@pinecrest-fl.gov

The Building and Planning Department is responsible for the issuance of building permits in compliance with all pertinent building codes and zoning regulations and ensures compliance with life safety codes as well as improving the aesthetic quality of the Village.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT | www.pinecrest-fl.gov/finance | 305.234.2121 | finance@pinecrest-fl.gov

The Finance Department is the central fiscal control and accounting agency of the Village government. The department deals with the daily accounting activities including payroll, accounts payable, revenue collection, cash management, risk management, purchasing, and financial reporting.

PARKS AND RECREATION | www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks | 305.284.0900 | parks@pinecrest-fl.gov | fb.me/pinecrestparks

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the management of all public parks. The department is also responsible for the coordination of all programs and activities at Village facilities including the Pinecrest Community Center.

PINECREST GARDENS | www.pinecrestgardens.org | 305.669.6990 | gardens@pinecrest-fl.gov

Pinecrest Gardens is the Village's botanical garden and cultural center. The site features over 1,000 varieties of rare and exotic tropical plants and palm trees in a native hardwood and cypress setting. The venue also hosts a variety of educational and cultural programs.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT | www.pinecrest-fl.gov/publicworks | 305.669.6916 | publicworks@pinecrest-fl.gov

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of roads, public areas and public facilities, beautification projects, stormwater sewer maintenance, and construction management of capital improvement projects.

POLICE DEPARTMENT | www.pinecrest-fl.gov/police | 305.234.2100 or 911 | police@pinecrest-fl.gov | fb.me/pinecrestpolice

The Pinecrest Police Department is a full service community oriented police agency. The department is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Services include School Resource Officers, DARE Program, Police Explorers, Community Service Aides, Crossing Guards, Internal Affairs, Dispatching, Records, Crime Prevention and Crime Scene Investigation Units, Honor Guard Unit, and Uniform Patrol (including K-9 Unit and Detective Bureau).





VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Village Council
Cindy Lerner, Mayor
Bob Ross, Vice Mayor
Cheri Ball
Doug Kraft
James E. McDonald

Yocelyn Galiano Gomez, ICMA-CM
Village Manager

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

Mitchell Bierman
Village Attorney

Pinecrest Municipal Center

12645 Pinecrest Parkway
Pinecrest, Florida 33156
T: 305.234.2121
F: 305.234.2131
www.pinecrest-fl.gov

